THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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COLUMNS:

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY & YOU

Betsy Armstrong, Coordinator of Systems and Administration, recently attended a day-long information session on the new Occupational Health &Safety Act which became law in Nova Scotia on January 1, 1997. The session was intended specifically for government operations, however, the content is relevant to many office situations.

Main points emphasized by the new Act include responsibility for a safe work environment, employees' rights concerning health and safety issues, and the necessity of having a written policy. Every workplace with five or more regular employees must have a written OH&S Policy in place by July 1997. Every workplace with twenty or more regular employees must have a written OH&S Program in place by January 1998. The NS Department of Labour will provide a guide to writing an OH&S Policy and an OH&S Program.

The new Act is available on-line at http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi/96chap/96_ch7.htm. Further information and publications are available from the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Occupational Health and Safety Division, 1-800-952-2687.

DIGBY BRANCH OPENING

Friday, January 31, 1997 saw the official opening of the expanded and relocated Digby Branch of the Western Counties Regional Library. The new branch library, named after Isaiah W. Wilson who authored the History of Digby County, is the result of a successful partnership among the Western Counties Regional Library Board, the Municipality of the District of Digby, and the Town of Digby. It is also the site for the Digby Community Access Project which provides additional computers for public access to the Internet and to the electronic catalogue of the library's holdings on NcompasS.

Councillor Sherri Lewis, Chair of the Digby Library Committee, opened the ceremony and greetings were brought by Digby area dignitaries including the Honourable Harry Verran, MP; the Honourable Joe Casey, MLA; Mr. Frank MacIntosh, Mayor of the Town of Digby; Mr. Tom Ossinger, Warden of the Municipality of the District of Digby; Mr. Bill Adshade, Chair of the Digby Community Access Project; and Mr. Gary Archibald, Chair of the Western Counties Regional Library Board.

Deputy Warden David Irvine introduced the guest speaker, the Honourable Robbie Harrison, Minister of Education and Culture. In his speech, Mr. Harrison spoke of the importance of libraries in the life of a community and in fostering educational and economic opportunities for all Nova Scotians. Western Counties Regional Librarian, Trudy Amirault, introduced the Digby Branch library staff and the staff at Western Counties Regional Library headquarters who were responsible for establishing the library in the expanded space. Janice Boudreau is the Coordinator of Library Services for the branch while Thelma Pulsifer, Connie Mullen, Lynn Comeau, Lynn Roberts, Maria Wong and Timothy Cook are the branch staff. Marion Pape and Debbie Taylor, of the NS Provincial Library, attended the opening ceremonies.

NcompasS AUTOMATION UPDATE

Automation is moving rapidly these days - as of February 17 the bibliographic records of Annapolis Valley Regional Library were loaded into Bank 6 (Annapolis Valley's own bank) from Bank 1, the Regional Libraries union catalogue on NcompasS. After much work on the part of all involved, nearly 200,000 item records were also loaded into Bank 6 from Annapolis Valley's in-house Oracle database. An outside vendor will commence production of smart barcodes shortly, and another hurdle in the preparation for circulation will be completed.

Western Counties Regional Library staff are diligently preparing their items for Circulation and Collections Exchange, while Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and Colchester-East Hants Regional Library are involved in preparing their patron databases for their own banks - Banks 7 and 8 respectively.

Pre-implementation brainstorming sessions have taken place with South Shore Regional Library and they are now waiting for delivery of their patron cards and item barcodes.

TRAINING NEWS

On February 14, Johanna Cooper delivered an Internet training session for six staff members of the Western Counties Regional Library at their headquarters in Yarmouth. The session focused on some of the more advanced techniques for searching AltaVista and Yahoo!, as well as an overview of Lycos Top 5% Sites.

Johanna was accompanied on the trip by Carol Morris and Gillian Webster of User Services. Carol discussed the types of reference materials held by the Provincial Library and the new Reference Request Form on the Provincial Library Web site. The form is available for Nova Scotia libraries wishing to submit a reference request to the Provincial Library.

Gillian gave an introduction to some databases accessible on the Web such as CARL UnCover, an index and article distribution service (http://www.carl.org/uncover/unchome.html), and ERIC, the education database (http://ericir.syr.edu/Eric/). User Services staff find that this type of knowledge sharing is an

invaluable way to promote and improve service.

On February 17, Dianne Brunelle of DRA/MultiLIS in Montreal provided training on DRAFind for ten Provincial Library staff members. DRAFind provides the ability to simultaneously search several Z39.50 compatible databases and to merge search results in a single display, eliminating duplicates.

On February 18-20, Dianne Brunelle provided Acquisitions module training for several Provincial Library staff members and for Charlotte Janes of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library. Provincial Library and the Annapolis Valley Regional Library will be implementing the Acquisitions module in April of this year.

JOUST FOR THE FUN OF IT!

Plans for the 1997 Summer Reading Programme boasting the slogans "*Reading - joust for the fun of it / La lecture - une armure pour la vie*" are well underway. The design, by Barry Donovan of Learning Resources and Technology, is almost complete and the tendering process for the project is set to begin soon. This year, the design will be printed on black t-shirts and sweatshirts instead of white and we're also producing some new promotional items this year. In addition to the usual t-shirts, sweatshirts, posters and pencils, we're producing bookmarks and buttons with the full colour design.

The Provincial Library was able to sell off some t-shirts and sweatshirts remaining from last year's programme by selling them at a greatly reduced price to Dept. of Education and Culture staff. This was a great success and we sold about 150 items. For more information on the Summer Reading Programme, please contact Sue Dirani (diranism@gov.ns.ca).

DIRECTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARIES - NEW EDITION!

The 1997 edition of the Directory of Nova Scotia Libraries is now available. This annual publication is the most current and comprehensive listing of more than 180 libraries and archival institutions in Nova Scotia. Entries provide comprehensive data, including subjects collected, hours, key staff names, mailing address, telephone, fax, and e-mail addresses where available. This new edition also includes URL's where applicable and ILL charging information.

It is an indispensable publication for ILL and reference staff, educators, researchers, library suppliers and the publishing world. Copies are available in print and on diskette (3.5" or 5.25") in WordPerfect 4.2,5.0, 5.1/5.2, 6.0 and 6.1 format. All copies are $10.00 and may be obtained from:

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For more information on the Directory, please contact Frank Oram at 424-2480 or by e-mail (foram@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

There are a number of new programs being introduced both in Nova Scotia and across the country that could be of benefit to libraries, archives, museums, community networks, community access sites and schools. Provincial Library staff have developed a short outline with contact information for these programs, many of which are year round for a duration of 12 weeks or more. To obtain a copy contact Debbie Ross at 424-2457 or at dross@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS LAUNCHED IN CANSO

The launch of two digital collections developed under contract with Industry Canada took place in Canso on Feb. 27. They are Transatlantic Cable Communications (http://www.schoolnet.ca/collections/canso/) and The Cooperative Movement in Nova Scotia (http://www.schoolnet.ca/collections/co-op/). The latter site contains information about Father Jimmy Tompkins' accomplishments with early credit unions, the initiation of adult education, the beginnings of the NS Regional Library System and the first housing cooperative in North America to name a few. They are linked on the Nova Scotia Provincial Library home page (http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca) under "Some Other Sites in NS".

These collections portray two very important chapters in the long and colorful history of Canso and area. Canso was one of the first communities to develop a very innovative Community Access site and several dedicated individuals and organizations are working very hard at diversification of the economic base with the downturn in the Atlantic groundfish industry.

PRESENTATION TO SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Provincial Librarian, Marion Pape, made a presentation on the Public Attitude Survey to a very lively audience of board members and staff of the South Shore Regional Library on February 18. Many questions were raised around funding and the 6% requirement for fundraising as well as the issue of who is responsible for fundraising. South Shore Regional Library Board is trying to increase the number of persons on their board to allow the inclusion of persons with fundraising skills/experience.

COMMUNITY ACCESS MAP

Provincial Library has just commissioned a map from Nova Scotia Geomatics that illustrates all the community access points to the Internet across the province in schools, public libraries, community networks and Access Nova Scotia sites. It is also accessible for a Powerpoint presentation and transparencies. Contact Debbie Ross at 424-2457 or at dross@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

LINKed

She wiped her eyes dry...snif...snif....and decided to pursue her own interests. Yes, that's right, after *months* of asking for theme suggestions, no one has responded to my lonely call. So...I'm going it alone and focusing this month's column on one of my own personal interests - oenology. For those of you who are out of the loop, that's the art of winemaking. And once again, if you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, please e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

Joy of Home Winemaking
http://206.184.156.232/JoyOfWine/
- Terry Garey's forum for discussing the ancient art of making wine. It includes topics like "Confessions of a home winemaker", "Winemaking 101" and information about his book of the same name.

All about Wine with Hugh Johnson
http://www.reedbooks.co.uk/docs/mitchell/wine/index.htm
- Johnson is a British wine expert and author of several books on the topic. Here you can get lots of information about wine from ancient times to modern day. For those of us who describe wine with terms like "Mmmmm...yummy", there's even a section on "Tasting and Talking about Wine".

The Wine Page
http://www.speakeasy.org/~winepage/wine.html
- Another great page on wine. This one includes a comprehensive glossary of grape varieties, a glossary of wine words, and an archive of tasting notes on many, many wines.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Looking for sources for purchasing Russian children's books for patron who has a child from Chernobyl staying with her.

A. The following sites were found for those wanting to order Russian children's books: Multilingual Books and Tapes Russian Page - http://www.esl.net/mbt/russian.html; RUSSIAN BOOKS IN PRINT ONLINE - http://www.eastview.com/bip/index.html; RUSSIAN LANGUAGE BOOKS - http://www.wor.com/books/russianb.html.

Q. Looking for sources of information on jobs in foreign countries.

A. A large collection of job-related Web sites, including worldwide listings, can be found at the Yahoo!

site (http://www.yahoo.com) by selecting "Business and Economy", and "Classifieds" and "Employment" (http://www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Employment/Jobs/). -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

This month's column features two books dealing with the impact of computer technology on libraries and on society in general. These items can be obtained from the Provincial Library's professional collection through regular interlibrary loan channels.

1. **Public Libraries, Communities and Technology : Twelve Case Studies**. Washington : Council on Library Resources, 1996. (Call # Prof. 027 .473 Pub).

This publication is the result of a study by the Council on Library Resources of twelve public libraries to assess the impact of library technology on local communities. These twelve were selected from 293 libraries which responded to a letter from the council President Deanna Marcum asking about the innovative uses of technology in their library programs. Each case study follows a similar format, providing a description of the library system, followed by a list of accomplishments, an overall community description, a description of the technology used, plus an outlook for the future. There are detailed appendices at the end of this book which provide useful library statistics and a list of sources for further information on how public libraries are serving their local communities through the use of information technology.

2. Tapscott, Don - **The Digital Economy : Promise and Peril in the Age of Networked Intelligence**. New York : McGraw-Hill, 1996. (Call# Prof. 004 .6 Tap)

This latest book by Don Tapscott, the co-author of the bestselling book Paridigm Shift deals with the impact of the new revolution in human communication, particularly on business. The author discusses the computer expanding from a tool for information management to a tool for communication. The central theme of this book is that a new economy is emerging, based on the networking of human intelligence and the author asserts that individuals and enterprises can create wealth by applying knowledge, networked human intelligence and effort to manufacturing, agriculture and services. Tapscott's enthusiasm with the emergence of the "New Digital Economy" is tempered with the realization of the many perils that will accompany this new revolution. -- Frank Oram

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